

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01619 281259Z

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 L-02 IGA-01 RSC-01 EB-07 SP-02

INR-07 CIAE-00 /030 W

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R 281041Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6007

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJ: GABON HOUSING GUARANTY

DEPARTEMENT FOR SER/H

ABIDJAN FOR RHUDO

YAOUNDE FOR RDO

REF: LIBREVILLE 1295

1. CHARGE CALLED UPON ESSONGHE, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL HOUSING OFFICE (ONH), DEC 27 AND DELIVERED COPIES OF REPORT COVERING FIRST ABIDJAN HG CONFERENCE. ESSONGHE CONFIRMED HE WILL ATTEND KINSHASA CONFERENCE AS PART OF GABONESE DELEGATION, AND HOPES HAVE PRODUCTIVE EXCHANGES THERE WITH USAID REPS.

2. ESSONGHE ADMITTED THAT GOG STILL HAS NOT CLARIFIED ITS THINKING ABOUT RESPECTIVE ROLES OF NATIONAL HOUSING BUREAU AND COMMISSION (PARA 2-5 OF LIEBSON OCT 8-15 TRIP REPORT). HE ALSO SAID THERE REMAINS GAP BETWEEN AID AND GOG THINKING ON COST OF UNITS WHICH HE HOPES CAN BE BRIDGED BY COMPROMISE. HE
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CONCLUDED REMARKS NOTING PRESIDENT BONGO'S KEEN INTEREST

IN HOUSING PROGRAM AND IN COOPERATION WITH USAID.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE WORKING LEVEL GOG FOOT DRAGGING, EMBASSY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT HG PROGRAM FOR GABON ENTHUSIASTICALLY AND HOPES KINSHASA CONFERENCE WILL BE OCCASION FOR PRINCIPLE ACTORS ON GABONESE SIDE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES PERHAPS WITH HELP FROM USAID REPS. SER/H MAY WISH TO CONSIDER IN THIS CONNECTION ASSIGNING TECHNICAL ADVISOR ON HOUSING TO GABON FOR EXTENDED PERIOD FOLLOWING CONFERENCE IF CONTACTS THERE WITH GOG OFFICIALS INDICATE THIS WOULD PROVE PRODUCTIVE. COUNTRYMAN

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